Amendments to the claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

Claims 1-10 (cancelled).

11 (new): A method of amplifying a target RNA comprising the steps of:

a) producing double-stranded DNA having a promoter sequence by using the target RNA as a template,

b) transcribing the double-stranded DNA in a reaction solution in the presence of an RNA polymerase from phage T7 and ribonucleotide triphosphates, wherein the ribonucleotide triphosphates include:

- adenosine triphosphate, uridine triphosphate, cytidine triphosphate, and guanosine triphosphate at a final concentration, together, of 2 mM to 3.5 mM and
- inosine triphosphate at a final concentration of 3.2 mM to 4.4 mM;

to produce transcripted RNA, wherein the transcripted RNA is

- the target RNA or
- RNA consisting of a base sequence complementary to the target RNA base sequence; and

c) producing double-stranded DNA having a promoter sequence by using the transcripted RNA as the template.

12 (new): The method according to claim 11, wherein the ratio of (i) the final concentration of the inosine triphosphate to (ii) the final concentration, together, of the adenosine triphosphate, uridine triphosphate, cytidine triphosphate, and guanosine triphosphate is 0.5:1.0 to 1.5:10.

13 (new): The method according to claim 11, wherein the transcribing step occurs in the further presence of:

- tris-HCl buffer having a pH of 8.5-8.9 at a final concentration of 20 mM to 50 mM,
- magnesium chloride at a final concentration of 12 mM to 20 mM,

and wherein:

- the adenosine triphosphate, uridine triphosphate, cytidine triphosphate, and guanosine triphosphate are present at a final concentration, together, of 3.5 mM to 5.0 mM and
- the inosine triphosphate is present at a final concentration of 1.0 mM to 2.7 mM.

14 (new): The method according to claim 13, wherein the ratio of (i) the final concentration of inosine triphosphate to (ii) the final combined concentration of adenosine triphosphate, uridine triphosphate, cytidine triphosphate, and guanosine triphosphate is 0.3:1.0 to 0.7:1.0.

15 (new): The method according to claim 11, performed in the presence of (i) tris-HCl buffer having a pH of 8.5-8.9 at a final concentration of 50 mM to 80 mM and (ii) magnesium chloride at a final concentration of 12 mM to 20 mM.

16 (new): The method according to claim 15, wherein the ratio of (i) the final concentration of inosine triphosphate to (ii) the final concentration, together, of adenosine triphosphate, uridine triphosphate, cytidine triphosphate, and guanosine triphosphate is 1.0:1.0 to 1.0:1.5.

17 (new): The method according to claim 11, wherein the transcribing step occurs in the further presence of:

- a primer complementary to the base sequence of the target RNA and
- a primer homologous to the base sequence of the target RNA,

wherein either the primer complementary to the base sequence of the target RNA or the primer homologous to the base sequence of the target RNA has at its 5' end a promoter sequence for the RNA polymerase from phage T7.

18 (new): The method according to claim 17, wherein the step of forming double-stranded DNA is by:

- reverse transcribing the target RNA with RNA-dependent DNA polymerase to produce single-stranded DNA and
- reverse transcribing the single-stranded DNA with DNA-dependent DNA polymerase to produce the double-stranded DNA.

19 (new): A method of assaying a target RNA comprising

- amplifying the target RNA according to claim 11, wherein the transcribing step occurs in the further presence of a fluorescently labeled probe that hybridizes with the transcripted RNA, and
- monitoring fluorescence of the reaction solution.

20 (new): The method according to claim 19, wherein fluorescence of the fluorescently labeled probe alters upon hybridization of the probe with the transcripted RNA.

21 (new): A method of amplifying a target RNA comprising the steps of:

a) producing double-stranded DNA having a promoter sequence by using the target RNA as a template,

b) transcribing the double-stranded DNA in a reaction solution in the presence of an RNA polymerase from phage T7 and ribonucleotide triphosphates, wherein the ribonucleotide triphosphates include:

- adenosine triphosphate, uridine triphosphate, cytidine triphosphate, and guanosine triphosphate at a final concentration, together, of 3.5 mM to 5.0 mM and
- inosine triphosphate at a final concentration of 1.0 mM to 2.7 mM,
- tris-HC1 buffer having a pH of 8.5-8.9 at a final concentration of 20 mM to 50 mM,
- magnesium chloride at a final concentration of 12 mM to 20 mM, ;

to produce transcripted RNA, wherein the transcripted RNA is

- the target RNA or
- RNA consisting of a base sequence complementary to the target RNA base sequence; and

c) producing double-stranded DNA having a promoter sequence by using the transcripted RNA as the template.

22 (new): The method according to claim 21, wherein the ratio of (i) the final concentration of inosine triphosphate to (ii) the final concentration, together, of adenosine triphosphate, uridine triphosphate, cytidine triphosphate, and guanosine triphosphate is 0.3:1.0 to 0.7:1.0.